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*A History of Public Permanent Common School Funds in the United States, 1795-1905.* By FLETCHER HARPER SWIFT. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1911. 8vo, pp. ix+493.

It is a generally accepted notion that the movement for the establishment of free common schools received considerable impetus in the earlier stages of its development from the formation of permanent school funds. Very little definite information has been available, however, concerning the specific sources of these funds, their management, the aid they actually rendered school systems, the purposes for which they were established, and their financial importance at the present time. It is the author's intention therefore, to make available information on these topics. The method of treatment adopted is partly historical and partly descriptive.

Part I deals with the more general aspects of the question. The principal source of school funds has been the proceeds of public land sales. The deposit of the surplus federal revenue, repayments to states for expenses incurred in war, and bequests from individuals have all, however, contributed in varying amounts. Of all the money that was poured into these funds by the liberality of the federal and the state governments only a small part remains. Mismanagement of land sales, bad investments, bank failures, official dishonesty, and the Civil War have been the chief causes of the losses sustained. It is difficult to conclude from Professor Swift's account what has been the financial importance of the aid furnished by permanent funds in the development of free common schools, although the statement is made (p. 5) that their existence is largely due to the creation of these funds.

The purpose of the first funds established was to abolish the necessity of local taxation for the support of schools; and participation in the income from endowments was not conditioned upon the maintenance of a specific standard of educational efficiency. The second step was to make participation in the income dependent upon the levying of a minimum local tax. More recently additional requirements, such as the submission of detailed reports to central authorities and a minimum school term, have been placed upon all districts claiming the right of participation. What has been the effect of permanent state funds upon the centralization of school administration and the development of state systems of education are interesting questions which the writer does not discuss.

On the whole the first part of the book is interesting and well written. The argument (p. 155) that when a state borrows money from a (school) trust fund the interest it must pay to the fund is "additional means of levying taxes" is not, however, entirely convincing, although the conclusion that the practice is bad might receive assent. Minor inaccuracies, such as the wrong date for the admission of Illinois into the Union (p. 108), the assignment of two dates for the adoption of the Wisconsin state constitution (pp. 62, 99), and the use of the term "fees for criminal offenses" (p. 30), are not of much importance, but they are sometimes confusing.

Part II is devoted to "A Summary of the Origin, Present Condition, and Administration of the Fund in Each State"—all this in 230 pages! All that is attempted is the barest sort of outline of the history of the fund of each commonwealth together with some statement of present conditions. The value of the book is to be found in the first part.

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*Social Evolution and Political Theory.* By L. T. HOBHOUSE. New York: Columbia University Press, 1911. 8vo, pp. 205. \$1.50 net.

The present volume comprises a series of eight lectures given on the Beer Foundation at Columbia University in 1911. The lecture form has been retained with some revision, and additions have necessitated a ninth chapter.

As is imperfectly expressed in the title, the lectures deal in a more or less connected manner with the general problem of the relation between evolution and progress. Putting aside as "unscientific sociological dogmatism" the proposition that all evolution means progress, the author considers whether it is to racial or to social evolution that we must ascribe any advance made by society during a given period of time. After a brief discussion, and a rather lengthy and unnecessary digression upon the subject of eugenics, he reaches the long-deferred conclusion that while "the biological conditions of human development are not such as to present any insuperable barrier to progress," yet "we may expect to find progress if anywhere, rather in social than in racial modifications."

But if we are to appreciate progress it is necessary that the term when used should convey some clear and definitive idea. We must have some standard by which to measure the advance. Both needs are realized and they are met thus: "The object of social effort is the realization of ends to which human beings can reasonably attach value, that is to say the realization of ethical ends; and this being understood, we may suitably use the term 'progress' of any steps leading toward such realization." And the "measure of progress" we may find in "the growth of the social mind and its control over the conditions of life."

Again, it is desirable that we be able to lay down laws of social evolution. But just as in biology a well-developed morphology was a prerequisite to the formulation of Darwin's theory of evolution, so in the social sciences the construction of a social morphology must be the first step toward this end. In the chapter on "The Growth of the State" the author by way of illustrating the method of such work develops the outlines of a morphology of government. Then by making use of his definition and measure of progress, he concludes that he is justified in the statement that in this portion at least of the social field there has been both evolution and progress. There remains one objection which may logically be urged, namely, that perhaps "an advance in one respect, at one period or in one society," is "balanced by losses in other respects, at other periods, or in other societies." To the refutation of this possible argu-